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AT LAST--THE SPECTACULAR 100TH ISSUE OF--

X-MEN™

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THE DEATH--
BETRAYED BY
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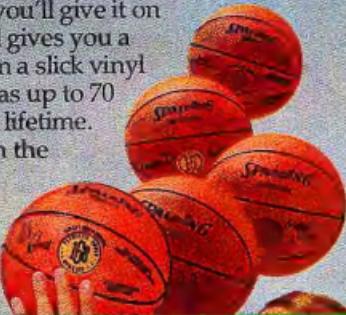
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--AN' LET'S DO IT NOW!

--THE LAUGHTER OF STEVEN LANG, HEAD OF PROJECT ARMAGEDDON...THE LAUGHTER OF A MAN WHO'S...

--WON! I'VE WON!

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--THE EXTERMINATION OF MUTANTKIND!!

CHRIS CLAREMONT * DAVE COCKRUM
AUTHOR ARTIST
ANNETTE K., LETTERER
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"GREATER LOVE HATH NO X-MAN..."

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ONCE, THEY HAD ALL
BEEN... FRIENDS...

YOU'VE GOT ONE
HECK OF A NERVE,
BANSHEE!

WHERE DOES A
TWO-BIT CROOK
LIKE YOU GET OFF
CALLING HIMSELF
AN X-MAN?

HEADS UP,
MIDGET!

BOM!

I DO NOT UNDER-
STAND THIS MADNESS--
NOR WHY YOU SEEK OUR
DEATHS A SECOND
TIME, HAVOK--

--BUT IF YOU
THINK MY COMRADES
AND I ARE GOING TO
GIVE UP WITHOUT A
FIGHT--

--THINK
AGAIN!

LISTEN TO ME, ALL OF
YOU--THERE IS NO NEED
FOR VIOLENCE!

IT IS TOO LATE
FOR UNDERSTANDING,
STORM!

WE WISH NONE OF
YOU ANY HARM--LET US
SIT DOWN AND TALK!
NIGHTCRAWLER, WE
MUST MAKE THEM
UNDERSTAND!

LOOK AT THESE
SO-CALLED 'FRIENDS'
OF OURS, ACTING MORE LIKE
PANICKED HUMANS THAN
X-MEN--LOOK INTO THEIR
EYES!

THEY
ARE OUT FOR
BLOOD, STORM!
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SPLAT!

KILL THEM
ALL!

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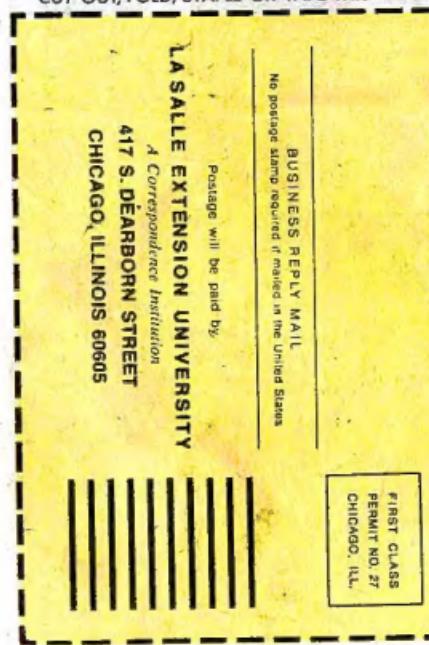
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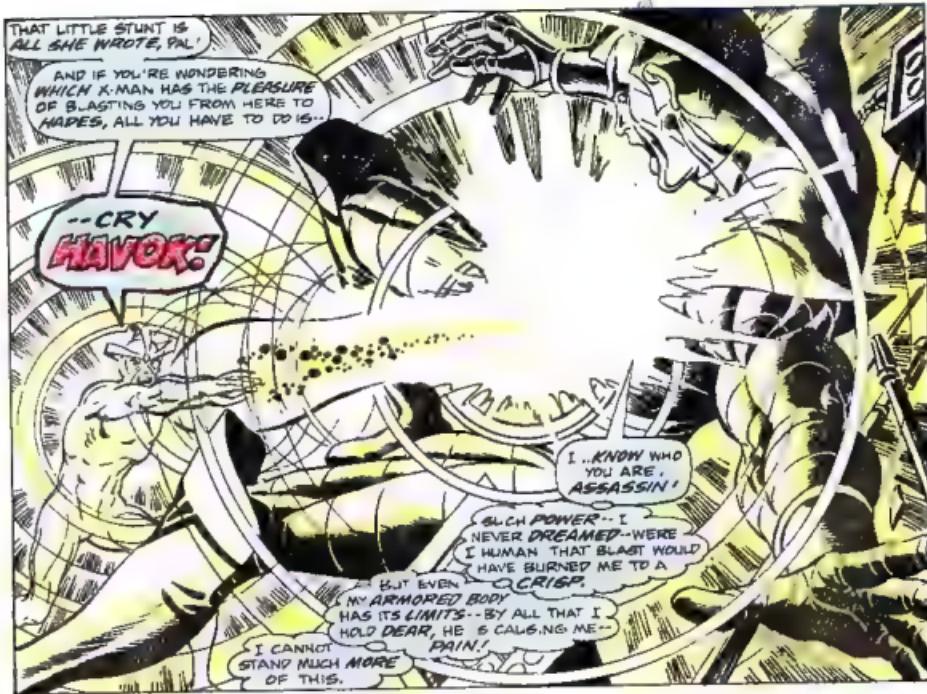
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AN THEY
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SHOULD HAVE DIED
NOT MY SENTINELS

AND THE X-MEN
WILL DIE, FOR THIS
GAME IS FAR FROM
OVER

"YOU ALL LOOK SURPRISED. YOU KNOW, I
BE MY GOAL HAS ALWAYS BEEN NOT THE
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TOTAL, COMPLETE EXTERMINATION!"

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THAT'S
TRUE



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G/O MARVEL COMICS GROUP, 575 MADISON AVE., N.Y.C. 10022

To begin with, a few words from the writer: "I've been involved with Marvel for eight years now—on and off—and in all that time, I have never seen anything like the response Dave and I received for X-MEN #98; the book's been out over two months now and letters are still coming in. And, to really fresh things out, they're almost all favorable. Which is the nicest late-Christmas present I could have gotten. So, simply, thanks—and keep it up!"

Dear Marvel..

The X-Men have always held a special sort of magic for me. Probably this comes from having been 12-years-old at a summer swap meet when finding my first copy of X-MEN. The characters in it lived and breathed and felt, and for that reason the X-Men will always be real and human to me.

Most of that magic still comes to me when I read a copy of today's X-MEN. The magic diminished a little when the X-Men were replaced by the "All-New, All-Different" X-Men, and I wondered why.

I didn't find out until today when I read issue #98. It was because until this issue the X-Men were not whole. Chris Claremont said it much better than I can: "Because you [Jean Grey], Cyclops, and Xavier are the heart and soul of the X-Men. Cut out the heart and the body dies." In two simple sentences, Chris has defined the X-Men. Without Cyclops, the X-Men aren't the X-Men anymore, they're just another group. And without Jean Grey, Scott Summers is just half a person.

Whatever the outcome, Mr. Claremont gave me back some of my childhood magic today, and I want to thank him.

Mrs. Gail Daley
P.O. Box 218
Riverdale, CA 93666

Chris again: "Mrs. Daley, that's the nice thing anybody's ever said about a book I've written. Thank you very much. I only hope Dave and I don't let you down in the issues to come."

Dear Chris and Dave,

Despite a sneak preview, I lost none of the progressive excitement of this current storyline. Your handling of the Sentinels this time around was excellent. I'm a bit surprised that they were so easily felled, but new X-Men and new X-Men powers explain that without any forced rationalization. And anyway, Lang himself as the driving force behind the Mutant hunters is a powerful and deep enough personality to sustain interest.

I enjoyed the further use of the new members' abilities, and in especial, those of Storm and the Wolverines. I've already decided that Storm is my favorite current member. "I am Storm...and I will NOT be destroyed!" Wow! Like the Banshee and Nightcrawler and the Wolverine, Storm has an apparently very complex make-up. On the outside, powers are utilized only when needed and exactly at the right time. Inside, the emotions also flow sparingly but enough so that the reader is intrigued. The complexity of these four and the other members is sensational. I am reminded of the middle-period AVENGERS in terms of excellent characterizations side by side with many armed plotting, yet the inherent mysteries surrounding most members goes the other one better. In an industry where many-membered teams are not handled as intricately as one would like, your X-MEN is something special. While combining the interesting action with interesting personalities, you have also taken the now accepted multi-dimensional characters and made the plot one with the participants. The inter-reaction of personnel and plot's as close to perfect as I have seen. Kudos and kudos.

To switch to a different area, I am thoroughly attracted to the use of the recognized background passerbys. I doubt if a more diverse group can be had than the two of you, Bonnie, Stan, Jack, Julie, Clarke, Lois, Fury, and on and on. I had as much fun picking them out as you probably had doing it. Thanks.

Dean Mullinney
168 Coon Avenue
Staten Is., NY 10308

You're not alone, Dean, in your affection for Storm; without a doubt, she is the most popular of our new X-Men. What is strange, is the sudden surge of affection for Wolverine. After letter upon letter demanding that we ditch the obnoxious little runt, all of a sudden there's a stupendous turn-around and everybody loves him! Will wonders never cease?

Dear Chris and Armadillos,

A few comments on X-MEN #98:

- 1 Very nice beginning. Finally got to see Wolverine without his costume.
- 2 Considering how easily these Sentinels were defeated, and because the Task Sentinels were destroyed back in AVENGERS #203-204, these must be inferior imitations, right?
- 3 As a John Carter fan from way back, allow me to compliment Peter Corbeau on the name of his late boat.
- 4 Please offer my condolences to Colossus on the death of his family, which I recall him taking leave of in GIANT-SIZE X-MEN #1. When did he become an orphan?
- 5 Why can't Nightcrawler be cute? He's cuter as himself than in that disguise. (Well, if you object to "cute," will you accept "attractive"?)

A final comment:

I'm really happy to see Jean Grey back. I didn't whether to leave in the first place. She belongs with Scott and the X-Men. May the Gerber elf pay you a midnight visit if you make her leave again.

Arin Nichols
P.O. Box 126
Williamsport, MD 21795

If that's true about the elf, then Chris is in a whole lot of trouble!

Of course, one big problem with bi-monthly letterrools is that many of the questions asked about in the letters are answered by the time the letter sees print. For example, any comments about the quality of the Lang Sentinels—not to mention their origin—were printed in X-MEN #'s 99 & 100 (lastish and this'n). But those are the breaks.

Moving right along: the mystery conflict between Colossus' "parents" established in GIANT X-MEN #1 and the letterool statement that he's an orphan will be resolved anon; just be patient. And, yes, attractive is a whole lot nicer than cute—if cryin' out loud, how can you call a super-hero cute? There's no class in it, no class at all!

NEXT ISSUE: Nine people trapped aboard a space shuttle that's spinning out of control into Earth's atmosphere, after plowing thru a solar radiation storm that nothing living could possibly have survived—and that's only the beginning of the saga, entitled:

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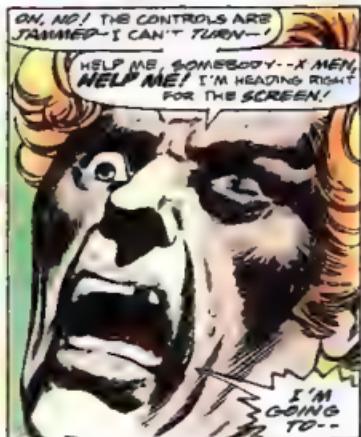
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STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Hoo Boy! This'll be the shortest Soapbox on record! Yours truly just caught the flu. So between sneezes and fever chills, there's just time to holleral you the name of the third ORIGINS book coming your way this Fall. First there was ORIGINS OF MARVEL COMICS, then SON OF ORIGINS both still on sale, of course, and doing better than ever, and now...the big news! No, it won't be called MOTHER-IN-LAW OF ORIGINS as so many of you predicted—though that might have been a zingy name too—but since it deals with the origins of the Marvel villains we decided to title it "Are you ready for this?" BRING ON THE BAD GUYS! I'll give you the lowdown in an issue or two soon as I stop sneezing. Oh, and thanks to Jaunty Johnny Conlin for arranging those two great lectures for me at Philadelphia Community College and Burlington County College. Two in one day was really a kick, John Boy. Finally don't miss the big news next 'ish about Gerry Conway and Marv Wolfman! No, they didn't defect to the CIA! That's it gang. And remember—let's be good to each other—we may not be much but we're the only human race we've got. Now open the aspirin bottle and warm up the tea Joanne—I'm heading for home in high gear!

Exclusive

Stan

of yore and the artistic masters of Marvel combine to bring you such all-time favorites as GULLIVER'S TRAVELS, BLACK BEAUTY, MOBY DICK and the ever popular TOM SAWYER. No, don't thank us. You know how embarrassed we get.

ITEM! And that's not all. Wild Ones! This month we also present the latest and greatest MARVEL TREASURY EDITION, featuring the God of Thunder himself! Yeah, that's right. Goldilocks and his Asgardian buddies battle the Mighty Mangog in a full-length blast from the past! And if you want to see what maniac Mangog's doing these days pick up the current issues of the regular all-new THOR! Both are treats to titillate the tastebuds of all True Believers. Thou shall not miss this one!

ITEM! You've been asking for it! And never let me say that we heed not thy requests! So, from now on, whenever you send for a subscription to any Mighty Marvel mag, your copies will be mailed to you flat—UNFOLDED! You'll find all the details in the subscription ad elsewhere in this issue. With this newest treat there isn't a single reason not to get your Marvels by mail. Try it, and you'll be glad you did. Of course, your mailman might not be thrilled carrying about those thousands of extra subscription copies, but when he finds out they're Marvel mags, he'll be glad to do his bit to further the cultural revolution!

ITEM! With all the other specials winging you this month we don't want the following twin titles to be lost in the shuffle. This is the month we bring back an old friend and try out a nutty new concept we think you'll really dig. So welcome back KULL THE DESTROYER and say hello to THE MAN-BEAST CALLED WOODGOD! Kull comes smashing your way from the combined talents of Rascally ROY THOMAS, Devil-May Care DOUG MOENCH, Edwardian ED HANNIGAN and Smashin' STEVE GAN! And it features the wildest, weirdest sword-and-sorcery sensation this side of Cimmeria! WOODGOD by Boisterous BILL MANTLO, KEITH GIFFIN and KLAUS JANSON makes its appearance in MARVEL PREMIERE #31. He's a superhero and not your garden variety type either. So take a peek at what may be the craziest character to come your way since that fateful day the gamma-irradiated Bruce Banner had his first transformation. While we're at it, let's give another plug to an upcoming mind-boggler from Marvel, namely the oft-mentioned new masterwork The Man Called NOVA! It'll be hitting your newsstand this June and we'll tell ya that everyone in the whole blamed

Bullpen is just wild over this brand-new superhero. Fact is, friends, we haven't seen so much excitement around here in years, as the gang wonders exactly when Marvelous MARV WOLFMAN, Big JOHN BUCSEMA and Joltin' JOE SINNOTT will actually finish the balmy book! Even STAN the Man has caught the NOVA fever by making this a monthly little even before the first issue comes out! That's how sure he is, and that's how sure we all are that you'll really dig this newcomer. So join Richard Rider and company, for a trek into superhero action like you've never seen before!

ITEM! Lately we've been deluged with No Prize requests for everything from finding a spelling error that one of our infamous armadillos may have somehow let slip by to discovering a finger nail missing on a character's hand. So, we thought we'd like to restate the philosophy behind the No Prize here and now: where every Marvel to will be sure to read it! Nearly nobody likes to be a loser, and everyone likes to be a winner, so, if we give an actual prize for spotting some major mistake, there will be some losers who won't be getting anything. Therefore, we created long before the dawn of man, or maybe a week or two after, the No Prize! Awarded for the discovery of some error or major proportions that cannot be explained by a Bullpenner, or for some meritorious feat of research, or for any act of Marveldom heroism, above and beyond the call of sanity! The No Prize eliminates losers, 'cause—how can there be a loser for a No Prize? And, for those of you who have never been no-prized—the incredible impact of the awesome honor it and when you get it, will be one of the greatest events of your life exceeded only by that fateful day when you learn about sugarless bubble gum—or that girls are different from boys!

ITEM! Hey! We're running out of room, so we've got just one rhapsodical request. Y' see, we're trying to work up a list of all the college comic book courses that are being taught across the country for sinister reasons known only to the High Arman! So, if you know of one, attend one, or teach such a course, drop us a card, eh? Until next month, don't live in gloom—black FOOM!

**THE
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COMING!**

ITEM! This seems to be the month for Mighty Marvel milestones. True Believers! Not only do the old X-Men do battle with the new X-Men in the panoramic panels of X-MEN #100, not only does the long remembered Wonder Man return to the palpitating pages of AVENGERS #150—but the fate of the whole blighted nation depends on eve yore's favorite red, white and blue Avenger Captain America and his high-flying act or partner the Falcon—stopping the dreaded Madbomb from blowing everyone's mind to Kingdom Come and back in the pages of Marvel's Bicentennial treat to you CAPTAIN AMERICA #200! If you miss this triumvirate of titan tales you'll only have yourself to blame and we don't wanna give you a guilt complex!

ITEM! Speaking of milestones this month also sees the second sensational set of MARVEL CLASSICS on your newsstand shelves. The literary greats

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IT'S...ALREADY TOO LATE, MY FRIEND...

PLEASE, KURT--I BEG YOU...

...PLEASE...

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"I DON'T WANT TO DIE..."

NOT LONG AT ALL.

JUST THE REST OF MY LIFE...

CORBEAU WASN'T KIDDING ABOUT THIS FLARE-- IT'S BARELY HERE AND IT'S ALREADY PUSHING MY POWERS TO THE LIMIT.

ONLY CONSOLATION IS THAT EVEN COLOSSUS WOULDN'T HAVE SURVIVED THIS LONG.

SO HOLD ON, JEAN--FOR THE LOVE OF ALL YOU HOLD DEAR--

...HOLD ON!

TWENTY...MINUTES TO...GO...

BUT STRAIN... CAN'T TAKE MUCH...

OH, NO,

MY SCREEN'S STARTING TO GIVE WAY!

TAC TAC TAC

THE FLARE--THE RADIATION-- IT'S STARTING TO GET THRU!

SCOTT!!

TAC

TAC A TAC TAC TAC
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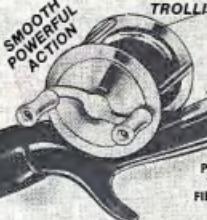
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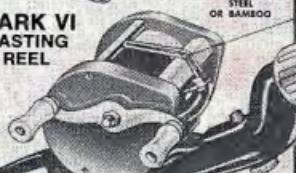
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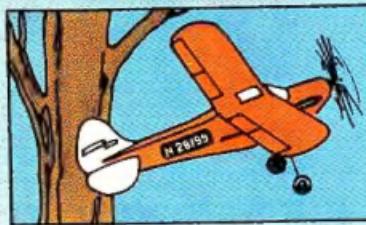
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